Scheme to Ensure Higher Returns to Subscribers of PF in Government Services

1585. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new scheme has been launched to ensure higher returns to subscribers of Provident Fund in Government service and undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of higher returns expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour in Tribal, Backward and Hilly Areas

1586. DR. B.L. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of bonded labourers particularly in tribal, backward and hilly areas, State-wise;

(b) the number of bonded labourers liberated/rehabilitated after the enactment of Bonded Labour Abolition Act, State-wise;

(c) whether any assistance has been provided for the purpose during the last three years to each State and particularly to North Eastern States;

(d) if so, the dsetails thereof and particularly in regard to tribal, backward and hilly areas; and

(e) whether any action plan has been formulated/proposed' to be formulated for their liberation and rehabilitation during the 50th year of India's Independence?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The State Governments have so far identified 2, 51, 424 bonded labourers out of which 2,30,915 have been rehabilitated under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bounded labour. The Scheme envisages rehabilitation assistance ' upto Rs. 10,000/- per bonded labour. The State-wise details of bonded labourers identified/released and rehabilitated may be seen at statement *(see* below)

Amount released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is given in the table below. Incidence of bonded labour has not been reported from any of the North East States. As such no funds were released to these states.

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	101.41	31.25	79.37
Bihar	6.18	6.61	—
Karnataka	171.50	42.66	2.84
Kerala	6.03	—	—
Orissa	5.75	0.39	1.63
Rajasthan	1.69	3.28	5.70
Tamil Nadu	1.59	1.12	—

Identification and rehabilitation of the borded labour is a continuous process. Under the Act the responsibility of identification and rehabilitation rests with the State Government. Funds for rehabilitation are released as and when requirements are received to this effect from any State Government.